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Harvard University has just issued its Course of Study in Mathematics for the year 1899-1900. Among the courses offered in advanced Mathematics are the following: General Theory of Surface, Prof. J. M. Peirce; Dynamics of a Rigid Body, Professor Byerly; Quaternions with Applications to Geometry and Mechanics, Prof. J. M. Peirce; Trigonometric Series, Introduction to Spherical Harmonics, Potential Functions, Professors Byerly and B. O. Peirce; Theory of Functions (Second Course), Riemann's Theory of Functions, Professor Osgood; Algebra—Galois's Theory of Equations, Professor Osgood; Lie's Theories as Applied to Differential Equations, Dr. Bouton; etc., etc. The courses offered at Harvard are sufficiently varied and extensive to meet the wants of any student of mathematics.

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### BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

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*A Text-Book of Physics.—Sound.* By J. H. Poynting, Sc. D., F. R. S., Late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, Professor of Physics in Mason University College, Birmingham; and J. J. Thomson, M. A., F. R. S., Sc. D., Dublin; Hon. D. L., Princeton; Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; Cavendish Professor of Experimental Physics in the University of Cambridge. Royal 8vo. Cloth, 174 pages. Price 8s. 6d. London: Charles Griffin & Co., and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The authors are preparing a Text-book of Physics of which the account of the phenomena of sound and the theory of these phenomena as presented in this book forms only one part. The presentation of the subject of sound as here given is such as to enable the student who has no knowledge of advanced mathematics to obtain a good understanding of this branch of physics. The book is well printed, the quality of paper used is very good, but the illustrations of some pieces of apparatus are poor. B. F. F.

*The Elements of Graphic Statics.* A Text-book for Students of Engineering. By L. M. Hoskins, Professor of Applied Mechanics in the Leland Stanford Junior University. Revised Edition. 8vo. Cloth, 200 pages. Price, \$2.25. New York: The Macmillan Co.

In this book is found not only that which meets the needs of the student, but also that which is useful to the structural engineer as well. B. F. F.

*Röntgen Rays.* Memoirs by Röntgen, Stokes, and J. J. Thomson. Translated and edited by George F. Barker, LL. D., Professor of Physics in the University of Pennsylvania. 8vo. Cloth, 76 pages. Price, 60 cents. New York: Harper & Bros.

This is volume III of Harper's Scientific Memoirs, edited by J. S. Ames, Ph. D., Professor of Physics in Johns Hopkins University. This little book contains Professor Röntgen's paper in which he announced to the world his wonderful discovery; a biography of Professor Röntgen; a paper On the Nature of the Röntgen Rays, by Sir G. G. Stokes; a biographical sketch of Stokes; a paper On the Theory of the Connection between Cathode and Röntgen Rays, by J. J. Thomson; and a biographical sketch of Thomson. This little

volume makes very interesting reading for any one interested in one of the most wonderful discoveries of the nineteenth century. B. F. F.

*A History of Physics in its Elementary Branches, including the Evolution of Physical Laboratories.* By Florian Cajori, Ph. D., Professor of Physics in Colorado College. 8vo. Cloth, 322 pages. Price, \$1.60. New York: The Macmillan Co.

This History of Physics is in line of excellence and interest with the History of Mathematics by Dr. Cajori. Such an account of the progress and development of Physics, as well as a short sketch of the investigators who have enlarged and enriched its domain by careful research and discovery, has long been found desirable. Every teacher and student of Physics should read this book, as the history of any science has a stimulating effect and helps to make it attractive. De Morgan said, "No man should think it a waste of time to learn something of the history of his own subject; nor is the investigation of laborious methods now fallen into disuse, or errors once commonly accepted the least valuable of mental disciplines." B. F. F.

*The Modern Theory of Solution.* Memoirs by Pfeffer, Van't Hoff, Arrhenius, and Raoult. Translated and edited by Harry C. Jones, Ph. D., Associate in Physical Chemistry in Johns Hopkins University. 8vo. Cloth, 128 pages. Price, \$1.00. New York: Harper & Bros.

This is the fourth volume of Harper's Scientific Memoirs. It contains Pfeffer's Osmotic Investigations; biography of Pfeffer; Van't Hoff's The Role of Osmotic Pressure in the Analogy between Solutions and Gases; biography of Van't Hoff; Arrhenius's On the Dissociation of Substances Dissolved in Water; biography of Arrhenius; Raoult's The General Law of the Freezing of Solvent and On the Vapor-Pressure of Etherial Solutions; The General Law of the Vapor-Pressure of Solvents; and a biography of Raoult. B. F. F.

*Algebra Elementare Ad Uso Dei Licei e Degli Instituti Fecnici (1° Bienio) Secondo I Programmi Governativi con Copiose Note Storiche Molte Consigli Pratici Per Indirizzare L' Allunno Alla Risoluzione Degli Esercizi Piu' di 2000 Esercizi e Problemi Graduati da Risolvere e Circa 400 Esercizi e Problemi Minutaments Risolti.* Pages 428.

This is an elementary algebra of unusual value, as the definition of all algebraic operations are given according to the advanced notions of modern mathematics. The numerous illustrative problems are worked out in detail, the historical notes are of value, and the many problems of the various chapters well chosen. The work throughout bears evidence of the painstaking care of the author in its preparation. B. F. F.

The following periodicals have been received: *Journal de Mathématiques Élémentaires*, (1er Mai 1899); *The American Journal of Mathematics*, (April, 1899); *L'Intermédiaire des Mathématiciens*, (April 1899); *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*, (May, 1899); *The Kansas University Quarterly*, (January, 1899); *The Monist*, (April, 1899); *The Ohio Teacher*, (April, 1899); *The Educational Times*, (May 1, 1899); *The Mathematical Gazette*, (February, 1899).

*The American Monthly Review of Reviews.* An International Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited by Dr. Albert Shaw. Price, \$2.50 per year in advance. Single numbers, 25 cents.

*The Cosmopolitan.* An International Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited and published by John Brisben Walker. Price, \$1.00 per year in advance. Single numbers, 10 cents. Irvington-on-the-Hudson.